THEY'VE OUTDONE THEMSELVES.
THE BRIDGE IS RUINED!

PESHAWAR FORTRESS WOULD HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY A STONE'S THROW AWAY. WERE WE TO CROSS HERE. HOW HOW TO PROCEED...?
MORE DE-MERIT
!
NARSUS !!!

NARSUS! YOU ARE SAFE!
AS ARE YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS!
OH, THANK GOODNESS!
YOUR HIGHNESS, I CANNOT APOLOGIZE ENOUGH FOR MISSING YOU HORRID
I ASSURE YOU, I WILL NOT BE AN EASY MAN TO KILL WHEN I ARRIVE YET TO BECOME YOUR COURT PAINTER, AS YOU PROMISED ME.
HE'S PRINCE ARSLAN ?
FOR KING ANDRAGORAS' SON, I IMAGINED SOMEONE... BIGGER.
HA HA HA
THIS IS AFRAID OF THE ZOT CLAN.
YOUR HIGHNESS
CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BROUGHT HER TO TRAVEL WITH US.

I WANNA-- I MEAN, I WISH TO SERVE YOUR HIGHNESS ALSO...
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR NATION!
THANK YOU.
THAT IS MOST ENCOURAGING!
I CANNOT OFFER YOU MUCH IN WAY OF THANKS PRESENTLY, BUT IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WISH, THEN PLEASE DO.
Y-YES, I WILL!!
I AM FIRRINGHS.
I SERVE THE TEMPLE OF MITHER IN KHIZISTAN.
I AM A TRAVELING MINSTREL. MY NAME IS GHEVE.
LADY FIRRINGHS AND I ARE CLOSE. DREADFULLY CLOSE.
WE ARE NOT CLOSE AT ALL.

AHEM. DID YOU ALL NOT GO ON TO PESHAWAR AHEAD OF US?
ACTUALLY, I'M NARSUS' LOVER...
OH, REALLY?
ACCORDING TO THE LOCALS, THIS IS THE ONLY BRIDGE FOR THREE FARSHINGS.
THAT IS A PROBLEM...
WE'VE BEEN LOITERING ABOUT LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CROSS.
NOPE. BRIDGE WAS ALREADY OUT BY THE TIME WE ARRIVED.
DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN CHARGE, NEW GIRL!
THERE SHOULD BE A FORD/SHALLOW ENOUGH TO CROSS.
LET'S FOLLOW THE RIVER DOWNSTREAM.
HOLD YOUR TONGUE UNTIL HE'S SAID HIS PIECE.
SIR NARSUS ALWAYS HAS A PLAN BREWING.
WELL LOITERING ABOUT HERE WON'T GET US ANYWHERE, WILL IT?

びく
FLINCH
ぐりん
WHIRL

EH HEH
へへん
おろおろ
ORORO

IF WE TRAVEL DOWNSTREAM, THE CURRENT WILL BE SLOWER, AND THERE SHOULD BE SOME FORDS.
... YES...
WE'LL CROSS WHEN WE FIND ONE.

VERY WELL!
HOWEVER, OUR ENEMIES WILL BE EXPECTING US TO SEARCH FOR A FORD, SO WE MUST PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

ONCE WE CROSS THE RIVER, WE'LL FINALLY ARRIVE AT PESHAWAR FORTRESS...

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Chapter 37: Fortress of Sandstone

THMP
THERE'S ARSLAN !!!
THERE IS!!
THOSE NUMBERS ARE A BIT MUCH FOR US.
SO THEY LIED IN WAIT BUSH AFTER ALL.
BFF
SOME-ONE GIVE ME A SWORD!
I'LL FIGHT, TOO!!
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR SWORD!

HEY !!
FWUP
HERE!
GOOD GRIEF!
WHOK
YOU'RE A RUFFIAN, AREN'T YOU!
GRRR!
SHE'S ALREADY IN THE SWING OF THINGS.
SHE SEEMS STRONG !

おレ
RA
A
A
A
A
おお
A
A
AG
G
H
おお
おお
STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON? YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO YOUR FATHER!
I WILL NOT REST— NOT UNTIL I TAKE YOUR HEAD!!
TAKE ARSLAN ALIVE!
KILL THE REST!!!

I'LL COME SEND YOU TO YOUR ETERNAL REST!/
THEN DON'T MOVE!
THUMP
WHERE IS YOUR BLUSTER NOW, ZINDEH?
YOU WOULD FLEE BEFORE WE'VE EVEN CROSSED BLADES ?!
?!

HE FLED TO LURE ME AWAY FROM HIS HIGHNESS' SIDE...!
GRAA
THUD
SHRRR
A
A
A
GLORP
AGH!
VWOOM

GAA
YAH
GH
AZRAEL!!!
...IF AZRAEL IS HERE...
FFH

EVERYONE! KISHWARD DRAWS CLOSE!!!
HE BRINGS REINFORCEMENTS WITH HIM!
BUT WE, TOO, HAVE TO MOVE FORTHW-
KISHWARD?!
WAAH!!!
WHA...
AH...!!
COUGH ME UP, PRINCESS! YOUR WISH NEWS!
UNDER GOD'S SUCH AS THESE, THAT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!
HE'S SHAKEN THE ENEMY, WHILE RAISING HIS ALLIES' MORALE!

ドドド

DEFEND THE CROWN PRINCE !!
YASHA-SUIIN !!!

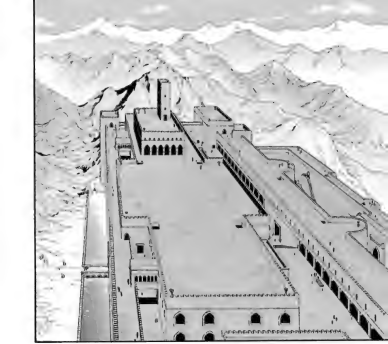
THOOM

RRRRMBL
RRRRMBL

UWAAAA
あぁ
あぁ
あぁ

I CAN'T BELIEVE A PRINCE IS ASKING AFTER A COMMONER LIKE ME.
SUCH IS HIS HIGHNESS' WAY.
SHUNN
WELCOME, YOUR HIGHNESS! THANK GOODNESS YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THIS REMOTE REGION SAFE AND SOUND!
WELL! IT TRULY IS PRINCE ARSLAN!
PESHAWAR FORTRESS HOUSES 20,000 CAVALRYMEN AND 60,000 INFANTRYMEN!
WE ARE ALL HONORED TO PLEDGE OUR LOYALTY TO YOUR HIGHNESS!
IT HAS BEEN INDEED, KISHWARD!
WHEN AZRAEL CAME TO MY AID, I KNEW YOU HAD TO BE NEARBY.

TRULY, I AM OVER-JOYED TO SEE YOU!
YOUR HIGHNESS! WORDS HONOR ME MORE THAN I DESERVE ...!
SMILE
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, LORD KISHWARD.
DARYUN AND... NARESUS ?
SO IT WAS, SO IT WAS!
I SEE! SO YOU TWO WERE WITH HIS HIGHNESS!
HAH HAH HAH!
THEN HIS HIGHNESS WAS BETTER OFF THAN IF HE HAD IN ARMY OF 10,000 MEN!
SIGH



CHEER
HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN IS HERE!!
HIGHNESS!

I'M A MARGRAVIN NO LONGER, FRIEND.
WELL, WELL! LORD MARGRAVIN DARYUU! SO YOU WERE WITH HIS HIGHNESS?
PLEASE, REST AS IF THIS WERE YOUR OWN HOME!
YOUR HIGHNESS, ARE YOU HURT?
YOUR HIGHNESS!
WHO ARE THE REST OF THEM?
AREN'T THOSE THE MARKINGS OF THE ZOT CLAN?
WHAT ARE BANDITS DOING IN THE COMPANY OF HIS HIGHNESS?
!

...YOUR HIGHNESS... THE CROWN PRINCE...
...IT IS GOOD THAT YOU ARE SAFE...
Y...YES. YOUR HIGHNESS!
BWAHAHA! I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU!
ARE YOU STILL IN GOOD HEALTH?
HE SEEMS UNWELL.
PERHAPS, AT HIS OLD AGE, WORRYING OVER ME PUT TOO MUCH EXTRA BURDEN ON HIS BODY...
?
...YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
PLEASE COME INSIDE.

...

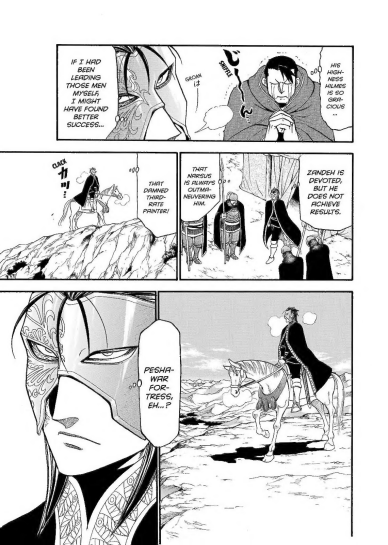
WE HAVE A ROOM THAT HIS MAJESTY KING ANDRAGORRS USED DURING THE EASTERN CAMPAIGN.
I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY.
I'LL HAVE THE BATHS PREPARED STRAIGHT AWAY AS WELL.
THE BATH?
I'D BE GRATEFUL.
HMMM, YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MUST HURRY!
FAMILIA WE MUST HURRY!

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
WOULD THEY I'D RATHER NOT KNOW...

THEN, I COULD HAVE SWORN MY LIFELONG LOYALTY TO THAT WISE PRINCE...!
OHH... IF ONLY I KNEW NOTHING ...

NO WORD'S COULD BE ENOUGH TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY INEPTITUDE!
HILMES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
OUR PREY FLED INTO THE SHELTER OF PESHAWAR FORTRESS.

APOLOGIZING WILL NOT MAKE THEM LEAVE THE SAFETY OF PESHAWAR FORTRESS, WILL IT?
DO NOT APOLOGIZE.


IF I HAD BEEN LEADING THOSE MEN MYSELF, I MIGHT HAVE FOUND BETTER SUCCESS...
SIGH
HIS HIGHNESS HILMES IS SO GRACIOUS...
SIGH
ZIRNDEH IS DEVOTED, BUT HE DOES NOT ACHIEVE RESULTS.
PAST NOBILITY IS RUINED'S CUTTAIN-NBVERKINS HIM.
THAT DAMNED THIRD-RATE PAINTER!
CLACK
PEGHA-WAR FOR-TRESS, EH...?

TRACE
!!
...
NARSUUUS
!!
HE'S AT THE BATHS.
IS NARSUS THERE?
DO NOT BE SO FAMILIAR WITH SIR NARSUS!
YOU'VE BARELY KNOWN HIM FOR A FEW DAYS!
SHOOBY!
AND HERE I WANTED TO SHOW HIM MY NICE CLOTHES.
...OHP

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW SIR NARSUS' FAVORITE FOODS!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT MUCH!
THE LENGTH OF A RELATIONSHIP IS ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM ITS INTENSITY!
HE STILL ATE MY COOKING WITHOUT A SINGLE COMPLAINT!
ふーん
THAT IS ONLY BECAUSE SIR NARSUS IS INCREDIBLY KIND!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT THE COOKING OF THE LADIES OF YOU WOULD-SUIT ARE TASTY!
ズドドド